

Childcare News

Newsletter of

Childcare Education Resources, Inc.
749 Thompson Street
Florence, AL 35630

Fourth Quarter, 2007-2008
July to September 2008

"Happy Summer" Everyone!

It is hard to believe we are entering into our last quarter for this fiscal year. The time has gone by so quickly. There are many new faces to the Early Childhood Profession and we are glad you have joined us! As always, we hope that you have been pleased with the training opportunities CER has offered this year. We have an open door policy and are always eager to hear your comments and suggestions. Thank you for your continued support and all the unnoticed hard work you do for our children. We appreciate each and every one of you!

The "Week of the Young Child" was a huge success! Over 160 of you received training at your local CER office with our "Lunch & Learn" sessions. For those of you that missed it, CER held a class from 12:30 to 1:30 Monday through Thursday. The participants either brought their lunch or enjoyed food that was donated by local restaurants. The sessions were informative and involved local resources available to each of you. Hopefully more of you will be able to attend next year and take advantage of some great trainings!

We hope you have a fun, safe summer with your children! Take advantage of the resources from your local CER library for developmentally appropriate materials. If there is not a library in your county, contact your Childcare Specialist for arranging ways to get materials to you. Don't forget we are here to help in any way.

Take Care, Richard & Staff

ANNOUNCEMENTS & REMINDERS

CER & the Madison County's Director's Association would like for you to join us on February 20th and February 21st 2009, to "Round Up Quality Childcare" at our 7th Annual Northwest Alabama Childcare Conference! The planning is already underway and it will be a weekend you don't want to miss! There will be training opportunities for everyone from home providers to center directors. So mark your calendar and make plans to be there. It won't be the same without you! You will receive more information in the early fall.

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CER would like to extend our sympathy to Kathy Burrows from our Athens office. Her mother recently passed away. Kathy, we love you and have you and your family in our prayers.

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CER would like to thank VOICES for coming to North Alabama and presenting three wonderful sessions. They were well attended, and participants walked away with the tools and knowledge to be better advocates for our children. A special thanks to James Dupree for conducting these trainings. Keep up the good work!

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CER wants to congratulate CHERYL KEPPLER PRATT on receiving her Child Development Associate. We are so proud of you! Way to go!!

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CPR/FIRST AID CLASSES OFFERED THROUGH CHILDCARE EDUCATION RESOURCES, INC.

The following classes are being offered for RE-CERTIFICATION ONLY. These classes are limited to 30 participants each, so please send your registration and payment as early as possible. Confirmation letters will be mailed or faxed out.

All of these classes are being conducted by Kenneth Kirkland, NREMT-P (nationally recognized emergency medical technician-paramedic). **Please make your check for \$15 payable to Kenneth Kirkland, not CER.** Only those who pay in advance will have a spot in the class.

Unfortunately, we cannot register you for these classes without pre-payment. You must register by sending in a regular registration form. We cannot take any reservations over the phone. Please be aware that your checks will be held until after the class date. We strongly suggest that you do not wait until the last minute to register as these classes fill up quickly!

Date/Time	Location	County
Saturday July 12, 2008 9:00-1:00	Little Tigers Preschool 1003 East Lawrence Street Russellville, AL	Franklin
Tuesday August 5, 2008 6:00-10:00	Huntsville CER Office 1115 Church Street, NW—Suite F	Madison
Thursday August 7, 2008 6:00-10:00	Decatur CER Office 245B Jackson Street	Morgan
Saturday August 16, 2008 9:00-1:00	Angie's Tender Care 15375 AL Hwy. 24 Moulton, AL	Lawrence
Thursday August 28, 2008 6:00-10:00	Athens CER Office 915A South Jefferson Street	Limestone
Saturday September 6, 2008 9:00-1:00	Neighborhood Facility 1205—10th Avenue (Hwy. 13 South) Haleyville, AL	Winston
Saturday September 27, 2008 9:00-1:00	Highland Park Church of Christ 600 Geneva Avenue Muscle Shoals, AL	Colbert
Tuesday September 30, 2008 6:00 - 10:00	Huntsville CER Office 1115 Church Street, NW—Suite F	Madison

ADDITIONAL TRAININGS

NORTHWEST-SHOALS COMMUNITY COLLEGE Upcoming Training Workshops

Call Sue Gibbs at NWSCC for more information or to register at (256) 331-5351

Hispanic Workshop—Cristina Rickard			
Tuesday, July 15	6:00 pm— 8:00 pm	Brandon Ministry Center of the Shoals	No Charge
Colbert/Lauderdale/Lawrence County DHR Group/Family Homecare Providers Workshop-Diann Durdunji			
Monday, July 21	6:00 pm— 8:00 pm	Hospitality Center—Shoals Campus	No Charge
Franklin/Winston County DHR Group/Family Homecare Providers Workshop-Dianne Pace			
Monday, July 21	6:00 pm— 8:00 pm	Franklin County DHR Office— Russellville, AL	No Charge
Summer Child Development Conference: “Child Abuse/Neglect and Narcotics”			
Saturday, August 2	8:00 am— 12:00 noon	Shoals Campus— Muscle Shoals, AL	No Charge
Infant/Pediatric CPR/First Aid Training—Instructor: Noah Banister			
TBA	8:00 am - 12:00 noon	A.W. Todd Center- Russellville, AL	No Charge

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Shoals Conference

Child Abuse, Domestic Violence, Drug Awareness: Working with Families and Children in Today’s World

August 2, 2008

8:00—12:00

Registration will begin at 7:30 am

Location: Workforce Development
Center—Building 127 (next to the Child
Development Center)

Presenters/Topics:

Melinda McCoy: *Domestic Abuse*

ABC Drug Task Force: *Dangers of
Crystal Meth*

Area DHR Panel: *Q&A on Reporting Issues*

Monica Haddock: *Internet Safety and Abused Children*

SAVE THE DATE!!!

SECA 2009

Theme: Early Childhood Education: The Wave of the Future

January 29-31, 2009

Hilton Myrtle Beach Resort

Myrtle Beach, South Carolina

For more information, go to www.SouthernEarlyChildhood.org after 7/1/08

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Focus on Family Child Care Conference "Relationships Are the Heart of Quality"

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June 21, 2008

Southern Union State Community College

Opelika, AL

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For more information, please visit: www.humsci.auburn.edu/fccp

*****The location has been changed to the campus of
Auburn University**

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Fingerprints Taken at No Charge to Our Providers

As you may know by now, CER is able to assist providers by taking fingerprints at no charge, as required by DHR. *This free service is the taking of fingerprints only, not the submission to the State's Office of Criminal History.* **Effective June, 1, 2007, all fingerprints will be by appointment only.** The Huntsville and Athens offices are available to fingerprint during regular office hours on Mondays and Thursdays. The Florence and Decatur Offices are available during regular office hours on Mondays and Wednesdays. Providers may visit the Decatur office on Mondays only. Please have the top portion of the cards completed in black ink and remember to bring a valid photo I.D., preferably your driver's license. If you have any questions concerning fingerprinting, please call the main office toll free at (866) 764-9232.

Under the Sea

What is an Ocean? Jump in! The ocean is an exciting and amazing place to explore. It is full of bright colors, constant movement, beautiful fish, and strange-looking creatures. The ocean introduces children to new experiences, new information, and feelings of respect for a special environment. Enjoy the fun and adventure of each experience!

Seashore Surprise

Materials:

Empty oatmeal box
Scissors
Paper bag
Various objects relating to the seashore,
such as rocks, shells, feathers, bones, kelp, sand, starfish

Preparation:

Cut a hole the size of a child's fist in the lid of the oatmeal box. Place the beach items in a paper bag.

What to do:

Sit with children and explain that there are surprise treasures in the paper bag. They are from the seashore! Teacher secretly picks an object from the bag and places it in the oatmeal box. Now place the lid on the box and choose a treasure finder!

The treasure finder puts a hand through the lid opening and feels the object in the box. Guess what it is!

Now pull the object out of the box and identify it! This child can then choose the next treasure finder.

The teacher takes another object from the bag and places it in the box. Continue with the other children.

Starfish Paintings

Cut a 3" wide starfish shape from white posterboard for each child. Tape each starfish on a separate sheet of white construction paper. Give a starfish sheet to each child. Place a variety of paint on the table. Ask the children to paint a beautiful ocean picture on their paper. When the children are finished painting, remove the paper starfish from the picture to reveal a starfish imprint!

Fish Art

Give each child a sheet of white construction paper. Place shades of green and blue crayons on the table. The children can color a beautiful ocean on their paper. The teacher can cut out 2" fish shapes from different colored construction paper. Tape a string on the back of each fish. Make the string 1" shorter than the width of the papers. When the children finish their ocean, they can choose a colored fish. Tape a loose end of the string at the top of their paper. Now they can make their fish swim around in the ocean!

Something Fishy

Materials:

Butcher paper
Scissors
Tape
Felt pens

Preparation:

Cut a 3' x 2' sheet of butcher paper. Tape it on a wall.

What to do:

Draw wavy ocean lines near the top of the paper. Now ask the children what kind of animal lives in water? Accept all sea animal answers.

Explain that a fish is a sea animal. It always needs to be in the water. Draw a large fish shape on the butcher paper without a tail, eyes, fins, etc.

Ask the children what is missing. As the children respond, draw or color their answers (eyes, fins, gills, scales, bones, etc.).

As each body part is mentioned, talk about it! Eyes help the fish see underwater. Fins help fish move. Tails push fish through the water. Fish breathe through gills. Fish have scales instead of skin or hair. Fish have a skeleton. Fish come in beautiful colors.

When the fish picture is finished, place a variety of felt pens on the floor. Each child can choose a felt pen and draw a fish on the paper. Explain that many fish swimming together is a school of fish!

Sounds of the Sea

Sit with children. You are at the seashore! Sit very quietly. You will be able to hear the different sounds of the

sea.

Introduce each sound. The children can try the sound after the teacher identifies the sound and demonstrates it.

The surf: Make quiet swishing sounds with your mouth.

Dolphins: Make clicking sounds.

A stormy sea: Clap your hands for waves crashing on the beach.

Seahorse: Make smacking sounds.

Sea gulls: Make a high pitched short A sound, A...A...A!

Sea lions: Make grunting sounds.

Whales: Make haunting sounds.

Whale Tales: Slap the floor.

Now begin a sea sound experience. The teacher says a name, such as sea gulls. The children make the sound!

Continue with other sounds.

See who can remember the sea sounds. Each child can name a sound to make.

Courtesy of: The Busy Classroom: A Preschool Teacher's Monthly Book of Creative Activities; Patty Claycomb

Office Information for all CER Offices

CER Office — Florence

749 Thompson Street
Florence, AL 35630-3867
(256) 764-9232
(256) 740-6639 fax
(main office)

CER Office — Huntsville

1115 Church Street NW, Suite G
Huntsville, AL 35801-5980
(256) 536-6731
(256) 536-6239 fax

CER Office — Athens

915A S. Jefferson Street
Athens, AL 35611-3549
(256) 230-9554
(256) 230-0321 fax

CER Office — Decatur

245B Jackson Street SE
Decatur, AL 35601-2513
(256) 355-7252
(256) 351-0558 fax

There's an office serving you! Check out the extended hours at each location.

Office hours for
Florence

Days: Mondays through Fridays from 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.

Evenings: 2nd and 4th Tuesdays until 7:00 p.m.

*Your Childcare Specialist: **Beth Corum** covering Colbert, Franklin, Lauderdale and Winston Counties.*

*Office Assistant: **Kelly McDougle**.*

Office hours for
Huntsville

Days: Mondays through Thursdays from 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.

Evenings: 1st Monday and 4th Thursday until 7:00 p.m.

*Your Childcare Specialists: **Lori Foster** and **Teresa Ward** covering Madison County.*

Office hours for
Athens

Days: Mondays, Tuesdays and Thursdays 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. and Wednesdays 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.

Evenings: 1st and 3rd Tuesdays until 7:00 p.m.

*Your Childcare Specialist: **Susan Dole Robinson** covering Limestone County. Office Assistant: **Kathy Burrows**.*

Office hours for
Decatur

Days: Mondays and Wednesdays from 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.

Evenings: 1st and 3rd Tuesdays 4:00 pm until 7:00 p.m.

*Your Childcare Specialist: **Maryandra Wiser** covering Cullman, Lawrence and Morgan Counties.*

NOTE TO THOSE WHO WISH TO VISIT THE DECATUR OFFICE DURING EVENING OFFICE HOURS: Please call the office first before coming so Maryandra can meet you downstairs to let you in, as the first floor doors lock at 5:00 p.m.

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Child Development Associate (CDA)

Where are CDA classes offered?

CDA classes are currently being offered at :
Childcare Education Resources
915A Jefferson Street
Athens, AL
256-230-9554

Is there a cost?

Yes. There is a cost of \$25.00 per quarter to
attend the CDA classes.

There is also a fee for the final CDA assessment in the amount of \$325.00

* * * *The one-hour CDA Orientation is required before attending classes.* * * *

1st Quarter CDA Schedule
<i>*Orientation for the 1st Quarter Saturday, June 28, 2008 from 3:30 pm to 4:30 pm</i>
Saturday, July 19 , 2008 from 8:30 am to 3:30 pm
Saturday, August 23, 2008 from 8:30 am to 3:30 pm
Saturday, September 13 , 2008 from 8:30 am to 3:30 pm
<i>*Orientation for the 2nd Quarter Saturday, September 13, 2008 from 3:30 pm to 4:30 pm</i>

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DIRECTORS' TRAINING

Counties Served	Date	Location
Madison, Morgan, Cullman	July 26, 2008	Huntsville C E R Office
Lauderdale, Colbert, Franklin, Winston	August 2, 2008	Florence C E R Office

Topics and Presenters change each quarter.

CER encourages all Directors and Assistant Directors to attend.

Reading is Fundamental

Tips for Reading Aloud to Preschoolers

Read aloud so preschoolers can:

Continue to associate reading with warm, pleasant feelings; learn about words and language; and expand listening skills.
Pay attention to the language of books and begin to notice how it differs from spoken language.
Listen to the sounds in words and notice how some are the same and some are different.
Build their vocabularies with words they understand and can use.
Gain background knowledge about a variety of topics.
Talk about the characters, settings, and plot and relate them to their own lives.
Learn more about print concepts, such as, print is spoken words written down, the letters in words are written in a certain order, and written words are separated by spaces.

Choose books that preschoolers like:

Preschoolers feel good about their growing skills and accomplishments. As they learn new concepts and self-help skills, read stories about young children who have similar experiences.
Preschoolers have good memories. Read stories with simple plots children can retell in their own words (to themselves, a stuffed animal, or a friend) and pattern books with repetitive and predictable rhymes, phrases, and story lines that let children participate.
Preschoolers are building their listening skills and attention spans. Read longer picture books and begin chapter books that last for several sessions.
Preschoolers are curious. Read information books with facts, explanations, and new people, places, and things.
Preschoolers know a lot about their own world. Read books that let them use their knowledge to understand books that introduce new topics, facts, and ideas.
Preschoolers have vivid imaginations. Read folk tales and books with animal characters that think and talk like humans.
Preschoolers are learning about the sounds of letters and words. Read books with rhymes and alliteration.

Try these read-aloud tips:

Introduce the book: read the title, author, and illustrator; look at the cover; talk about what the book might be about; suggest things to look and listen for.
Run your finger under the text, while reading.
Answer questions related to the book; save other questions for later.
Talk about the story during and after a read-aloud session.
Use information and reference books to answer children's questions.
Ask children to look closely at the pictures to help them understand the story and make predictions about what might happen next.
Repeat interesting words and rhymes while reading a book and at a later time.
Pause and wait so children can say the word that ends a repetitive or predictable phrase.
Stop to ask thinking questions: "What might happen next? Where did he go? Why did she do that?"
Follow up on the story. Invite a child to talk; draw or paint; pretend to be one of the characters; and so on.

For more information, please visit www.rif.org

CER OFFICES WILL BE CLOSED:

Friday, July 4
Independence Day

Monday, September 1
Labor Day

Childcare Education Resources, Inc.'s (CER) mission is building better futures for young children by promoting quality early childhood education and services for families, businesses and early childhood professionals.

The mission of our corporation is supported through a variety of programs and services for children, families, and caregivers.

QUOTES ABOUT CHILDREN

In the final analysis it is not what you do for your children but what you have taught them to do for themselves that will make them successful human beings.

.....**Ann Landers**

Childcare News is the newsletter of Childcare Education Resources, Inc. It is published quarterly with funds made available by the Alabama Department of Human Resources. Each issue will have useful information to you as a caregiver. If you have any suggestions, comments, or questions, contact Childcare Education Resources, Inc. / 749 Thompson Street, Florence, AL 35630-3867 / (256) 764-9232 / (866) 764-9232. Childcare Education Resources, Inc. is an Equal Opportunity Employer.

CER's training is open to all persons regardless of race, color, national origin, handicapping disability, age, sex, political beliefs or religion. If your attendance is hindered by participation fees, transportation, language, location or for any other reason, you may contact the main office at (866) 764-9232. As resources are available, attempts will be made to overcome obstacles that hinder attendance.